

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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COUNTRY	Czechoslovakia	REPORT NO.	[REDACTED]
SUBJECT	Skoda Works, Horovice	DATE DISTR.	19 March 1953
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		REFERENCES	

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1. The Skoda Iron Works, National Corporation, factory at Horovice produces completed diesel motors. All the component parts and all phases of production are completed at the Horovice factory. 25 to 26 complete diesel motors are produced daily. The factory employs 5,000 workers, of whom 400 are apprentices.
2. The motors are either eight-cylinder engines for military trucks and caterpillar vehicles or 12-cylinder models for tanks. Production plans are always fulfilled, although the factory suffers from a shortage of qualified technicians, such as turners, lathe operators and assemblers. These shortages, as a rule, are remedied by the use of organized voluntary assistance from the Prague and Pilsen plants. The Horovice and Pilsen foundries give each other mutual assistance.
3. The factory is located south of the main Prague-Pilsen railroad line. Its northeast corner is about 150 meters from the Horovice railroad station. The factory covers an area of 300 by 400 meters and is surrounded by a barbed wire fence.
4. The factory contains the following units:
 - a. Foundry.
 - b. Mechanical workshop.
 - c. Repair shop.
 - d. Testing shop.
 - e. Plant militia arms storage.
 - f. Administrative buildings.
 - g. Finished goods storage.
 - h. Checking shop.
 - i. Electrical shop.
 - j. Assembling hall.
 - k. Garages.

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(Note: Washington Distribution Indicated By "X", Field Distribution By "#")

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5. The foundry is located in the middle of the plant and occupies an area 80 meters square. It is divided into seven sections, each of which has three cranes. It has three melting furnaces of 40-ton capacity, but each working shift uses only one furnace, meanwhile keeping the other two warm while on duty. Each shift produces about 35 tons of steel ingots, but at least half of these are always spoiled. As a result, the total output of usable ingots produced in a day by the three shifts may be put at 40 tons. The foundry has three cranes for moving molten metals and finished products. Including all three shifts, it employs 800 men. The seven sections mentioned above produce the following, respectively:
 - a. 1st section, cogwheels and other small poured-steel products.
 - b. 2nd section, 8-cylinder diesel motor blocks.
 - c. 3rd section, fly-wheels for motors.
 - d. 4th section, camshafts and crankshafts.
 - e. 5th section, all other diesel motor parts that can be poured.
 - f. 6th section, 10-cylinder²-motor blocks.
 - g. 7th section, 12-cylinder motor blocks.
6. The mechanical workshop is in the northeast corner of the plant, occupying an area of 60 by 150 meters. It is a two-story building and employs 500 workers on three shifts. The shops are equipped with very modern machine tools, such as high-speed lathes, drills, horizontal drills, drill punches, planing machines and grinders. Castings produced in the foundry and other parts are processed here prior to assembly.
7. The repair shop has five motor-testing brakes (sic). Defective motors are disassembled there and defective parts are repaired in the mechanical workshop, after which the motors are sent to the finished motor storage area without passing through further tests. The repair shop employs about 150 workers, working three shifts. Disassembling of motors is done on conveyor belt lines. There are also two cranes for moving the motors.
8. The testing shop is a one-story building adjoining the foundry. It is equipped with motor-brakes (sic) and eight mobile cranes for transporting diesel motors. It employs about 200 men. Testing takes two hours per motor. If no defects are found, the motors are taken to the finished products storage area.
9. The administrative building has four stories and employs about 400 officials and clerks. It is divided into the following departments:
 - a. Planning.
 - b. Norms.
 - c. Salaries and cadres.
 - d. Accounting.
 - e. Cashiers.
 - f. Plant Council.
10. The finished goods storage building is situated next to the testing hall, near the main gate. As a rule there are about 100 finished motors there, crated and ready for shipment. 20 storekeepers are employed there and there are three mobile cranes. Finished motors are sent once a week to the Horovice railroad station, whence they are shipped further by train.
11. The electrical shop is located at the southwest end of the plant in a three-story building 60 meters square. It employs about 400 men. Electrical starters of all types for diesel engines are produced there. The shop also repairs all electrical motors used in the plant.
12. The assembling hall is an extension of the electrical workshop; it has four conveyor belts, and 1,500 men, working in three shifts, are employed on them. The assembling process consists of 23 operations, taking 20 minutes each. It takes 40 minutes to assemble the gear box, as the motor has to be lifted to do it. Each assembly line has a small crane at the beginning and a large crane at the end which lifts the assembled motor onto the conveyor that takes it to the testing shop. This setup makes it possible to completely assemble one motor in an 8-hour shift, operating at full capacity. Actual production amounts to about 35 motors per day. About one third of the motors are found defective and are returned immediately from the testing shop to the repair shop.

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13. Next to the finished goods storage area are garages for six trucks. five 10-ton Skoda trucks in these garages. 25X1X
14. A plant repair shop is located in the northwest corner of the factory. It employs 200 workers, who work in three shifts. This shop maintains and repairs all the machines, tools and equipment of the plant. Its equipment consists of the following:
- a. Five lathes.
 - b. Ten drill punches.
 - c. Five drills.
 - d. 1 horizontal drill.
 - e. 2 planing machines.
 - f. Twenty grinders.
15. Raw materials are delivered to the factory from the United Steel Works in Kladno. Some raw materials also come from the Vitkovice Klement Gottwald Iron Works. No interruption in supply has been experienced up to the date this information was reported. At times, when the plant has fulfilled its production quota, it also produces parts of turbines for the V. I. Lenin Works in Pilsen.
16. There is a plant militia consisting of 50 men, whose duty it is to prevent acts of sabotage. They are organized in three 15-man platoons, which watch the workers in shifts. Aside from these, there are 200 workers who perform regular paramilitary duties with the plant militia and frequently take part in military training and exercises in the nearby Svata Dobrotiva camp. All these men are members of the Communist Party. There is an arms dump in the factory which contains 400 army rifles Mark 23, 400 pistols caliber 8.8 (of various models), as well as substantial stores of oval hand grenades and ammunition for the above weapons.
17. Access to the plant is through two gates. One must show a special permit in order to obtain admission. Each gate is guarded by 1 plant militiaman and two soldiers. A military guard detachment of 30 men is billeted in a house about 300 meters from the plant.
- 25X1A 1. Comment: The only diesel motor parts which are not produced at Horovice are piston segments and injection pumps. The former are supplied by the Buzuluk plant in Komarov, the latter by the V.I. Lenin plant in Pilsen.
- 25X1A 2. Comment: It is not clear whether the plant actually produces 10-cylinder motors, but paragraph 2 mentions only 8-cylinder and 12-cylinder motors.
- 25X1A 3. Comment: If the production lines are kept filled at all times it would appear that they are operating at a rate far below the capacity indicated.

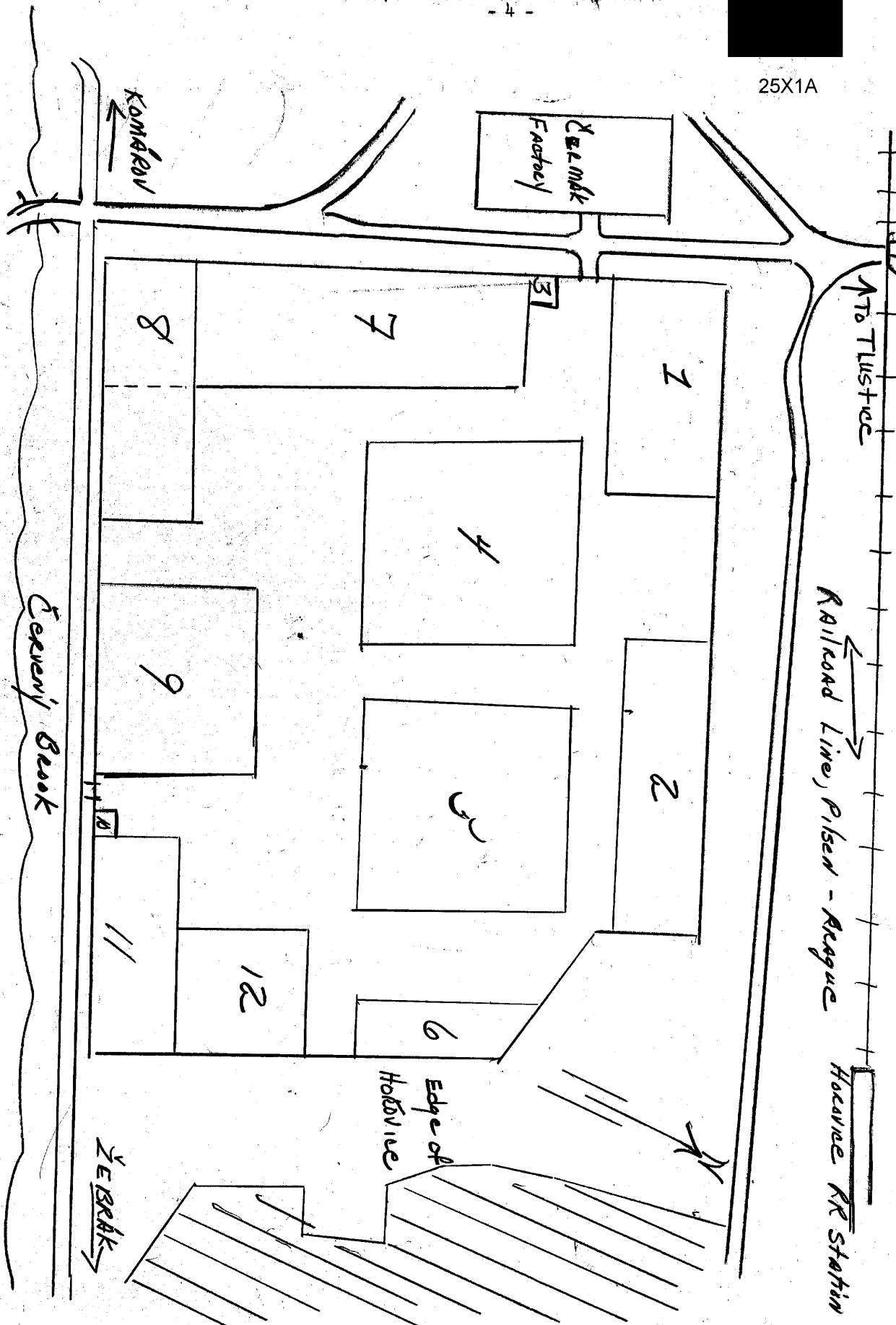
Annexes:

- (A) Sketch of Skoda Iron Works, Horovice. (1 page)
- (B) Legend explaining sketch. (1 page)

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LEGEND to attached map:

1. Repair shop.
2. Mechanical workshop.
3. Gate-keeper #1.
4. Foundry.
5. Testing hall.
6. Finished products storage.
7. Motor repairs hall.
8. Electrical shop.
9. Administration building.
10. Gate-keeper # 2.
11. Militia arms-dump.
12. Garages.

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